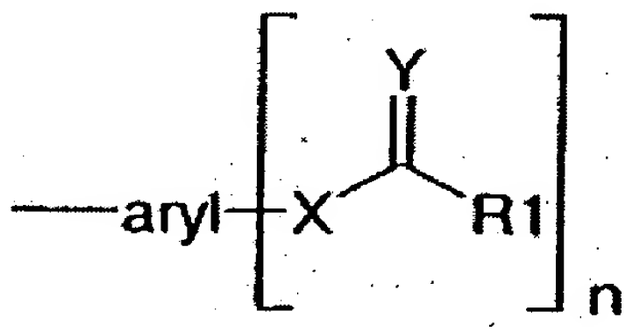
In the Claims

Claims 1 to 7 (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A conjugate comprising: (A) ~~which comprises~~ a molecule which has a molecular weight of 350 Daltons or more and which is capable of being transported across a biological membrane; and (B) at least one aryl radical of the formula I,



(I)

wherein

aryl is a group which contains at least one ring having an aromatic character;

X is O or N;

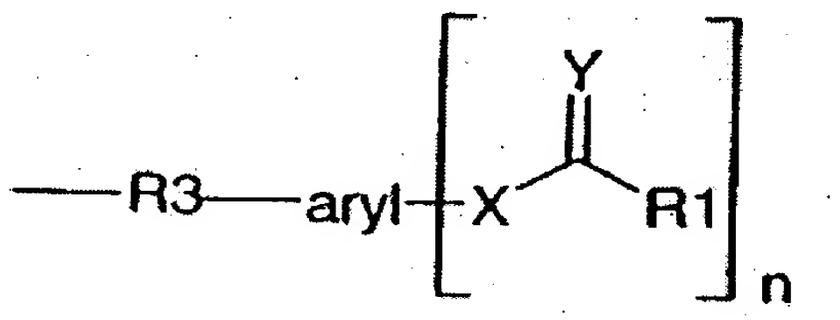
Y is O, S or NH-R^2;

R^1 is a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, C_1-C_{23} hydrocarbon radical, which is straight-chain or branched;

R^2 is a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, C_1-C_{18} hydrocarbon radical, which is straight-chain or branched; and

n is an integer greater than or equal to 1,

wherein the aryl radical is attached to said molecule via a chemical group, and wherein the chemical group together with the aryl radical has the formula II

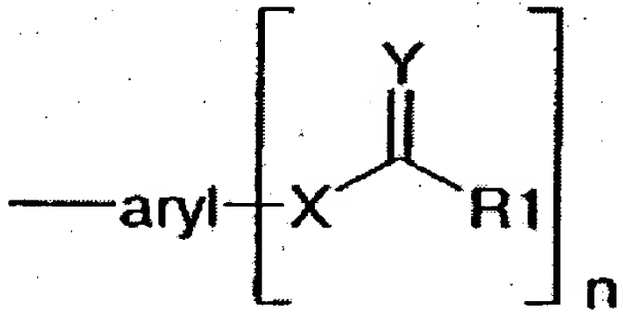


(II)

where aryl, X, Y and R^1 are as defined above, and

R^3 is a carbonyl or thioamide group.

9. (Currently Amedned) A conjugate comprising: (A) ~~which comprises~~ a molecule which is capable of being transported across a biological membrane; and (B) at least one aryl radical of the formula I,



(I)

wherein

aryl is a group which contains at least one ring having an aromatic character;

X is O or N;

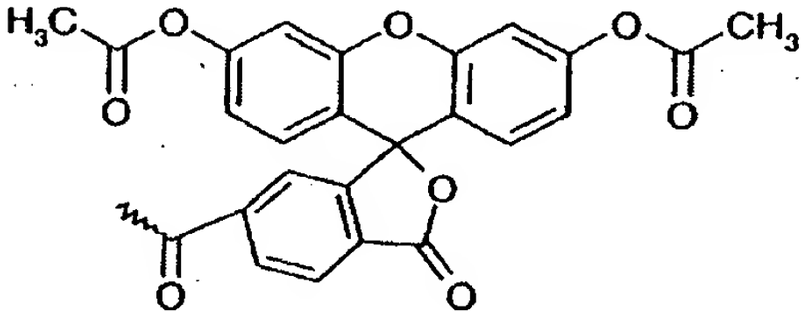
Y is O, S or NH-R^2;

R^1 is a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, C_1-C_{23} hydrocarbon radical, which is straight-chain or branched;

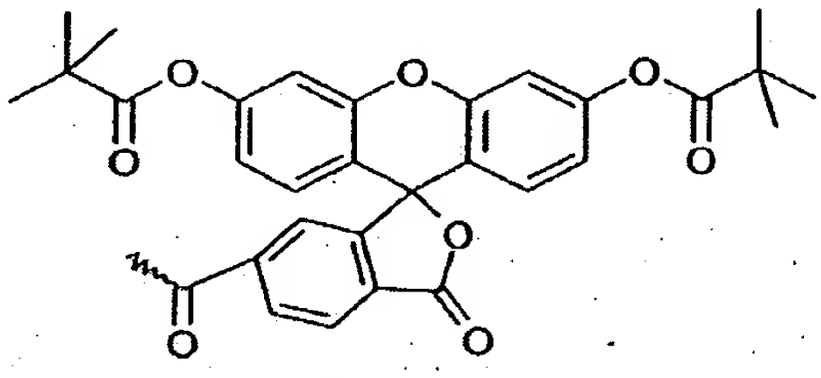
R^2 is a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, C_1-C_{18} hydrocarbon radical, which is straight-chain or branched; and

n is an integer greater than or equal to 1,

wherein the aryl radical is attached to said molecule via a chemical group, and wherein the chemical group together with the aryl radical together have one of the formulae F1 to F11



(F1)



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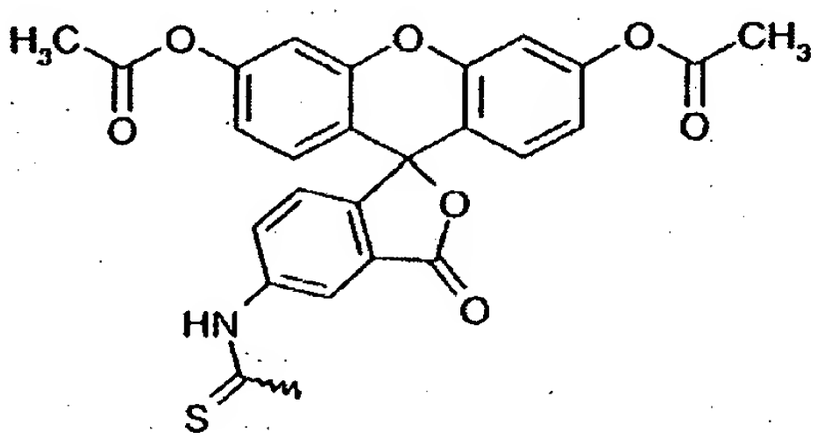
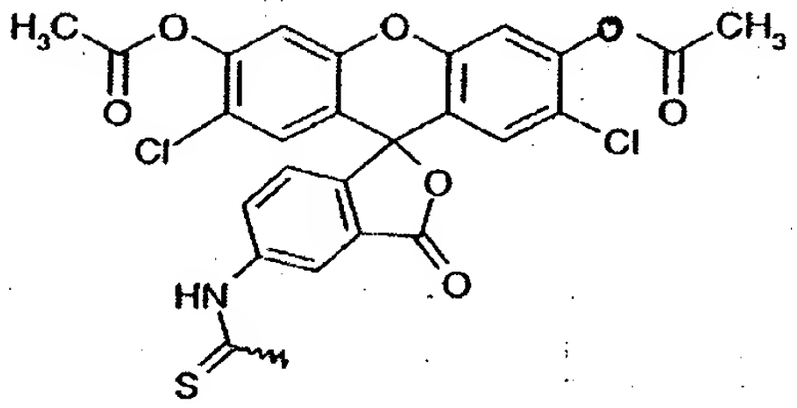
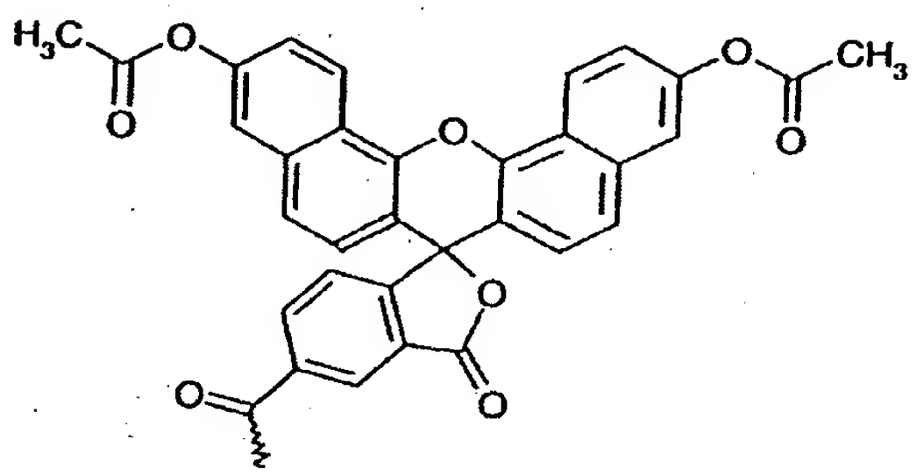


(F3)



(F4)



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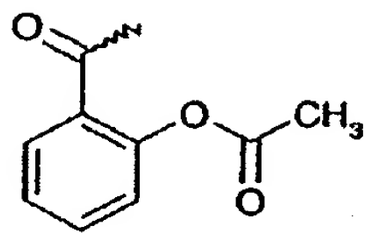
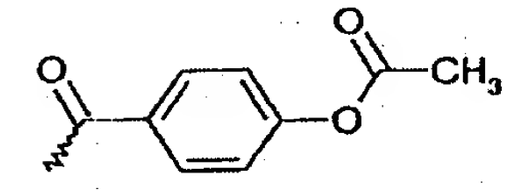


(F6)



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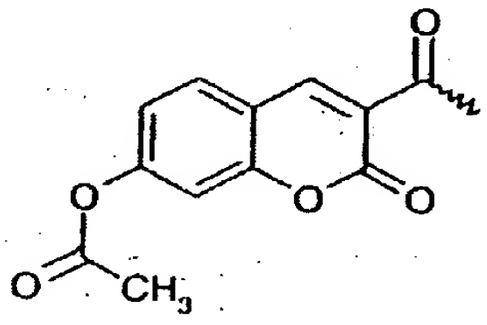
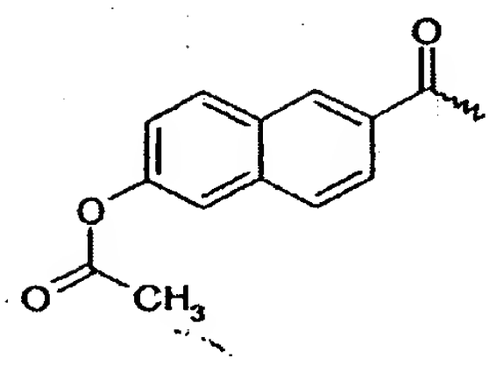


(F8)



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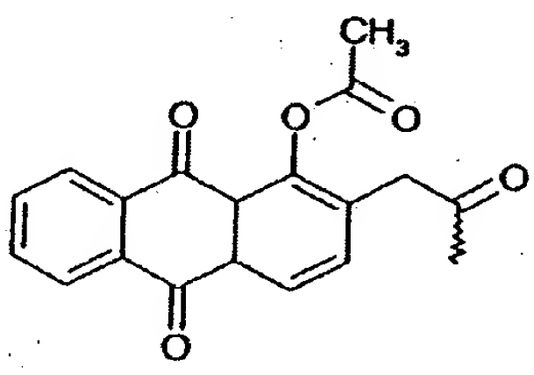
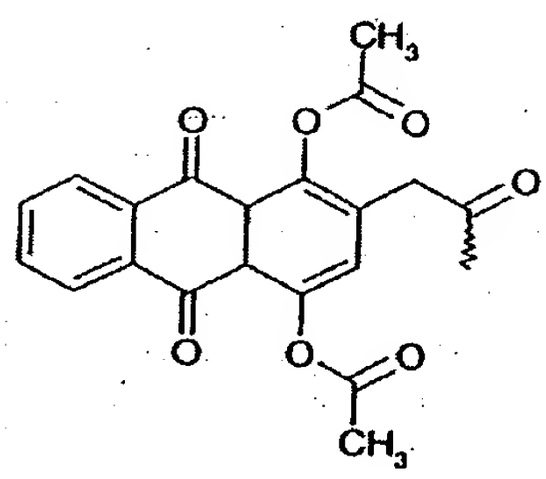


(F10)



(F11)

10. (Previously Presented) The conjugate as claimed in claim 8 or claim 9 wherein said molecule comprises a polynucleotide, oligonucleotide or mononucleotide and said conjugate comprises one or more said aryl radical(s) attached to the polynucleotide, oligonucleotide or mononucleotide at its 5' and/or 3' end and/or to one or more nucleobases and/or one or more sugar radicals and/or one or more internucleoside bonds thereof, provided that the aryl radical(s) is/are not attached by a CH_2-S group if the attachment is via an internucleotide phosphodiester bond.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing the conjugate as claimed in claim 8 or claim 9, comprising the step of reacting, to form said conjugate: (A) a compound which comprises said aryl radical; and (B) a compound which comprises said molecule and a reactive group ~~including providing said aryl radical and said molecule which comprises a reactive group at the position to which the aryl radical is to be attached to said molecule and reacting said molecule with the aryl radical to give the conjugate~~.

12. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the reactive group is an amino group, mercapto group, chloroacetyl group, isocyanate group, isothiocyanate group, carboxylic acid group, N-hydroxysuccinimide group or a carbonyl chloride group.

13. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the reaction of said compound comprising said molecule with said compound which comprises the aryl radical is carried out at a pH $\leq$ 7.5.

14. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the reaction of said compound comprising said molecule with said compound which comprises the aryl radical is carried out at a pH of 7.0.

15. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein said molecule comprises a polynucleotide, oligonucleotide or mononucleotide.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for transporting a molecule across a membrane, which comprises incubating the conjugate according to claim 8 or claim 9 with the membrane.

17. (Previously Presented) A method for transporting a molecule into a cell, which comprises incubating the conjugate according to claim 8 or claim 9 with the cell and wherein the conjugate is transported into the cell without the aryl radical being cleaved off.

18. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the cell is a eukaryotic or a prokaryotic cell.

19. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the cell is a bacterial cell, yeast cell or a mammalian cell.

20. (Currently Amended) The method ~~method~~ as claimed in claim 17, wherein the cell is a human cell.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the cell is a tumor cell.

22. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 8 or claim 9, which process comprises ~~providing said aryl radical and said molecule which comprises a reactive group at the position to which the aryl radical is to be attached, and~~ reacting, to form said conjugate: (A) a compound

comprising said molecule and a reactive group; and (B) a compound comprising ~~with~~ said aryl radical ~~to give the conjugate~~.

23. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 22, further comprising admixing the conjugate with an additive and/or an excipient.

24. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 8 or claim 9.

25. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic aid, comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 8 or claim 9.

26. (Previously Presented) A test kit, comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 8 or claim 9.

27. (Previously Presented) The conjugate as claimed in claim 8, wherein said molecule is a macromolecule having a molecular weight of greater than 500 Daltons.

28. (Previously Presented) The conjugate as claimed in claim 8, wherein said molecule comprises a polynucleotide, a polypeptide, or a polysaccharide.

29. (Previously Presented) The conjugate as claimed in claim 8, wherein said molecule comprises an oligonucleotide.

30. (Previously Presented) The conjugate as claimed in claim 29, wherein the oligonucleotide is modified.

31. (Previously Presented) The conjugate as claimed in claim 8, wherein said molecule has a molecular weight of less than 500 Daltons.

32. (Previously Presented) The conjugate as claimed in claim 31, wherein said molecule comprises a mononucleotide.

33. (Previously Presented) A conjugate according to claim 8 or claim 9 wherein R^1 and R^2 are unsubstituted.

34. (Previously Presented) A conjugate according to claim 33 wherein R^1 is unsaturated.

35. (Previously Presented) A conjugate according to claim 8 or claim 9 wherein R^1 and R^2 are substituted.

36. (Previously Presented) A conjugate according to claim 35 wherein the substituent on R^1 is an aryl radical.

37. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.

38. (New) A diagnostic aid comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.

39. (New) A test kit comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.